

# TUMApply

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## Reimagining Access to Doctoral Education



Aniruddh Zaveri



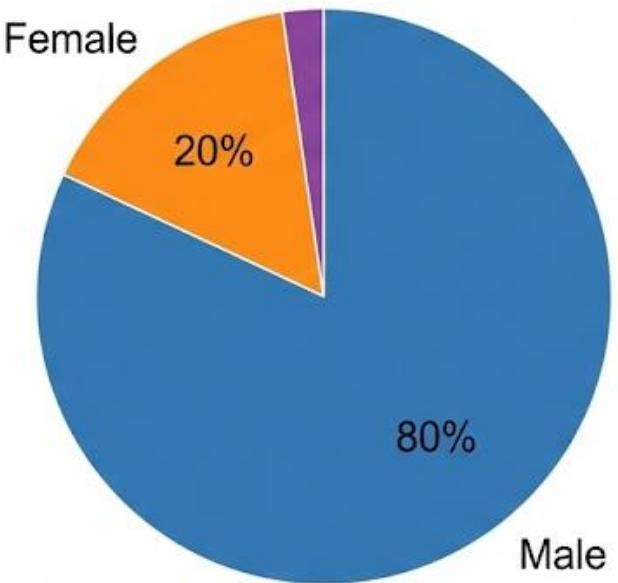
Ishani  
Budhwar



Tim  
Sommer

# Inclusivity in Applications

Gender Distribution of PhD Candidates in Engineering



Male dominance is particularly pronounced in engineering fields.

Source: Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), Statistical Report on PhD Candidates 2024

80%

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This statistic highlights a **significantly high** amount of male candidates among some doctoral programs, reflecting a non-inclusive academic environment.

# Inclusivity in Applications

## - Why it matters

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Ensuring all voices are heard in  
doctoral admissions processes

The journey to a doctoral degree can be daunting with following  
problems:

**UNDERREPRESENTED TALENT**

**SYSTEMIC INEFFICIENCIES**

**LOST POTENTIAL**



# Project Goal



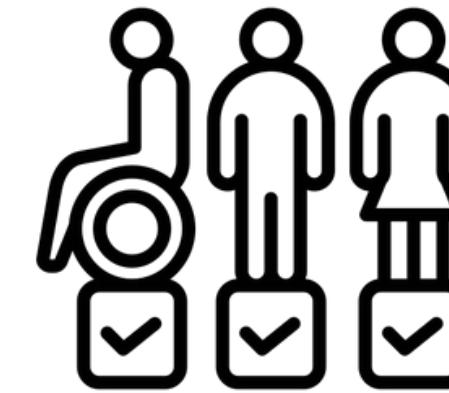
**TIMELY & EQUAL ACCESS  
TO OPPORTUNITIES**



**SUSTAINABLE & COHERENT  
APPLICATION INFRASTRUCTURE**



**Reduced Administrative BURDEN THROUGH  
RESPONSIBLE AUTOMATION**



**EQUITABLE ACCESS BEYOND  
INFORMAL GATEKEEPING**

# User Groups Overview

# Typical Applicant

Heterosexual, educated male

German citizen

~31 years old

Secure financial situation

Academic household



# Focused User Groups (1)



First-Generation



Older Candidates



International Applicants

# Focused User Groups (2)



Migrational Background



Women & Non-Male  
Applicants in STEM



Applicants with Disabilities

# User Journey & Concept

## Becoming Aware

## Exploring Possibilities

## Creating Applications

## Awaiting Outcome

## Outcome



Applicants search for doctoral opportunities and read about eligibility, facing overwhelming jargon.

Compare programs, supervisors, and funding options while reading department expectations, struggling with fit.

Gather certificates and transcripts, fill out forms, and face confusing accessibility issues.

After submission, candidates patiently wait for the outcome of their applications and check their application status.

Successful candidates receive decision notifications and prepare for the next steps.

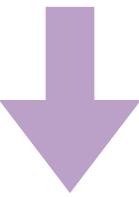
# Societal Barriers → Product Responsibilities

**Hidden Insider Knowledge**



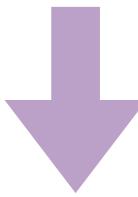
**Clear, Centralized Requirements**

**Structural Exclusion**



**Inclusive & Accessible Design**

**Information Fragmentation**



**Unified Information Hub**

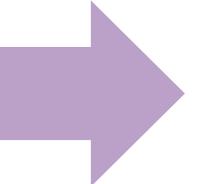
# Impact Statement

**TUMApply reduces barriers to doctoral education through inclusive, transparent, and sustainable application processes that support diverse applicants.**

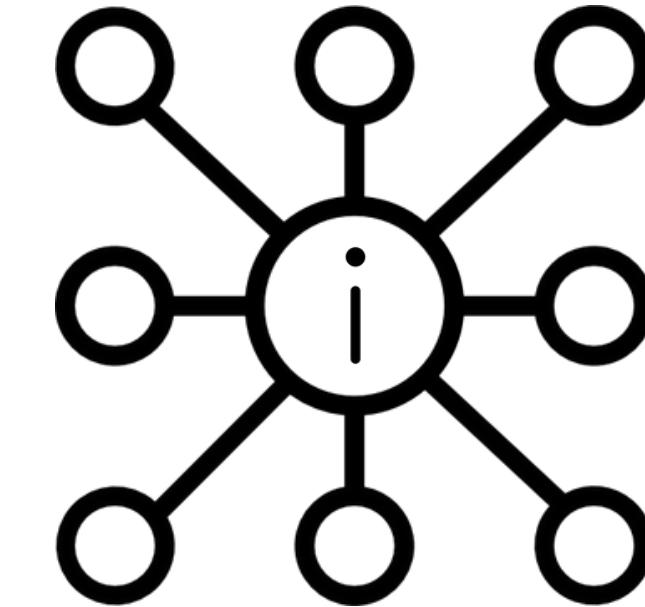


# **Current State → Proposed Evolution of TUMApply**

**Today**



**Our Proposal**



**TUMApply = pure application  
portal**

**TUMApply = central information &  
support hub**

# Solution

TUMApply

Expert Chat EN | DE ⌂ Sign In

DASHBOARD

Home Find Positions

SUPPORT

Funding & Support

RESOURCES

News How to Apply FAQ

Settings



TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology Technische Universität München

## Apply for your doctorate at TUM CIT

TUMApply is your gateway to a doctorate at the TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology

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### Doctoral Education for Everyone

We believe in making doctoral education accessible to all talented applicants, regardless of background. Subscribe to receive updates on:

- . Funding opportunities for first-generation students
- . International student scholarships & support programs
- . Accessibility resources and disability support
- . Annual doctoral application fair announcements

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- First-generation students
- International applicants
- Applicants with disabilities

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# Live Demo

# Reflection

## How did the Conscious Service Design methods shape our project?



**Highlighted sustainability trade-offs**



**Clarified User Groups and User Journey**



**Expanded the platform's role**

**Thank you for listening!**

**Note: AI was used in creating the icons and images in this Presentation**